

SAN JOAQUIN RIVER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

March 22, 2002
Resources Building
Sacramento, California

Action Team Report

Paula Landis and Ernie Taylor reported on Action Team meetings held on January 8 and March 11 in Modesto. Landis reported on the January meeting which included updates from the Integrated Storage Investigations (ISI) program, Corps Comp Study, Fish & Wildlife Subcommittee, and the San Joaquin River Parkway Conservation Trust (SJRPT) Outreach program.

The January 8 meeting provided coordination between the ISI program and the Comp Study regarding a discrepancy with storage volumes. Also discussed was the SJRPT Outreach program funded by CALFED. This project is intended to survey the community on how much they know about the river. The SJRPT expressed concerns about a glitch in the CALFED contracting and would like to see the project move forward.

The March 11 meeting was held in Modesto. David Gallo, CSU Chico, discussed the economic impact on Stanislaus County of public land acquisitions and conservation easements on floodplain lands along the Tuolumne and lower San Joaquin Rivers. NRDC and Friant Water Users Authority discussed their joint San Joaquin River restoration study. An update on the SJRMP coordinator position was given. A position description has been prepared with interviews taking place in early April. The coordinator will be hired under the Intergovernmental Personnel Agreement process. An update on the Comp study was given by Kevin Elcock, DWR Comp Study and Sara Schultz, USACE.

DWR Watershed Program

Stefan Lorenzato, DWR, briefed the group on the Watershed Program at DWR. DWR established the watershed program to assist local groups in obtaining technical assistance, and to understand the concepts of working at the watershed level. In addition, the program provides general outreach and education in K-12 school programs, establishes citizen monitoring groups, and cultivates broader diversity. In order to find new linkages to watershed management, district coordinators are asked to visit one local group a month. Funds for the next year's program will come from Proposition 40.

Comprehensive Study

Pete Rabbon, Reclamation Board, gave an overview of the Comprehensive Study. His main focus was on the Sacramento, San Joaquin

River and the Tulare Lake Basin. Some of the issues discussed included flooding, public safety, and the average cost of damages due to flooding. A future benefit of the program is improved emergency response using floodplain mapping that will help predict where flooding will occur.

The San Joaquin River was divided into two different projects, the Upper San Joaquin and Lower San Joaquin River. A working paper on regional projects was distributed. The list includes the Lower San Joaquin and Upper San Joaquin River regional projects, and a system-wide reservoir re-operation project. The Comp Study is focusing on these projects and hope to achieve consensus on the various project elements. Future plans include hiring more staff to complete hydrology models.

Water Quality Monitoring in the San Joaquin Valley

Les Grober and Eric Oppenheimer, State Water Resources Control Board, and Ernie Taylor, DWR, gave an overview of the Real-time Water Quality Monitoring progress. The parameters that are monitored are stage, electrical conductivity, and temperature. Some of the stations are linked to the California Data Exchange Center (CDEC) via satellite where they can be retrieved on the DWR Flood Management web site and others are downloaded by phone modem. A model has been developed based on the historical station data and is used to forecast flow and EC at Vernalis. A technical TMDL report for salt and boron in the San Joaquin River was submitted to the US EPA in January 2002. The TMDL will be incorporated into a Basin Plan amendment by Regional Board staff. The Regional Board consideration of the Basin Plan amendment is scheduled for June of 2003. The Real-time Water Quality Monitoring Program is seeking an amendment to their current CALFED contract in order to continue their program past the release of the new TMDL.

Other Business

Pete Rabbon, Reclamation Board, was asked to discuss the meeting he attended with the San Joaquin River Resources Management Coalition (RMC). He reported that there are around 110 land owners and interested parties from the Merced, Madera, and Fresno counties attended the meeting. Some of the issues discussed included Friant re-operation, the new San Joaquin River FIRM maps, water rights, and groundwater. A suggestion was made to invite Lynn Skinner, chair of the RMC, to the next Action Team meeting.

Date of next meeting: June 14, 2002

**ATTENDEES AT
SAN JOAQUIN RIVER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 22, 2002**

No.	Name	Organization	Phone	E-mail
1	Les Grober	CVRWQCB	(916) 255-3091	groberl@rb5s.swrcb.ca.gov
2	Sam Harader	CALFED	(916) 651-6170	sharader@water.ca.gov
3	Robert Lampa	DWR	(559) 230-3370	rlampa@water.ca.gov
4	Paula Landis	DWR	(559) 230-3310	plandis@water.ca.gov
5	Liz Mansfield	DWR	(916) 651-7107	elizabm@water.ca.gov
6	Mike McElhiney	NRCS	(209) 491-9320 ext. 102	michael.mcelhiney@ca.usda.gov
7	Pete Rabbon	Rec Board	(916) 653-5434	
8	Tim Ramirez	Resources Agency	(916) 653-5672	tim@resources.ca.gov
9	Ron Rowe	CALFED	(916) 654-2733	rrowe@water.ca.gov
10	Ernie Taylor	DWR	(559) 230-3352	etaylor@water.ca.gov
11	Amanda Peisch	DWR	(559) 230-3307	apeisch@water.ca.gov
12	Tim Rust	USBR	(916) 978-5516	trust@mp.usbr.gov
13	Richard Hayos	DWR-DPLA	(916) 651-9281	rhayes@water.ca.gov
14	Sara Schultz	Corps - Comp Study	(916) 557-7368	Sara.M.Schultz@usace.army.mil
15	Charlie Kratzer	USGS	(916) 278-3076	ckratzer@usgs.gov
16	Fraser Gensler	Corps - Comp Study	(916) 557-6881	fraser.f.gensler@usace.army.mil
17	Earl Nelson	DWR	(916) 654-3620	enelson@water.ca.gov
18	John Donnelly	WCB	(916) 445-1085	jdonnell@dfg.ca.gov
19	Bernice A. Sullivan	FWUA	(916) 441-1931	bsullivan@fwua.org
20	Eric Gillies	CSLC	(916) 574-1897	gilliee@slc.ca.gov